stones have not been auctioned in Bombay Customs for over a decade;

(b) what is the value of such goods awaiting disposal; and

(c) what action Government contemplates for disposing of seized/confiscated gold other than bullions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes Sir. Seized, confiscated diamonds, and other precious and semi precious stones have not been auctioned as the existing Govt. policy did not allow disposal of the same for the domestic market in India.

(b) The available stock of diamonds, precious and semi precious stones is as follows:—

	Value (Rs. in Crores)
Seized stock	23.01 crores
Confiscated stock	32.02 crores
Ripe for disposal	4.67 crores

(c) The Govt. has since reviewed the disposal policy on diamonds and precious stones. The necessary guidelines and procedure have also been issued enabling outright sale of cut and polished diamonds, rough and uncut diamonds, precious and semi precious stones in open auction. The auctions are proposed to be conducted in Mumbai by the Customs Department.

Housing Loans by LIC in Bihar

1473. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of housing loan given by the LIC in Bihar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how does it compare with other States;

(c) whether LIC propose to increase the housing loans to Bihar to boost housing sector in the States; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had allocated Rs. 4.14, 4.14 and 3.91 crores to the Government of Bihar for Housing Loans for the financial years 1994-95; 1995-96; and 1996-97 respectively. However, no amount was disbursed by the LIC during this period as there are outstanding dues of interest and principal instalments on the loans sanctioned in the previous years to the extent of Rs. 4.52 Crores. However, a loan of Rs. 2.00 Crores was released to Bihar State Housing Co-operative Federation Ltd., by the LIC for the year 1996-97.

Statements showing the amount released to other State Governments and State level Apex Societies during this period are at Annexures (1) and (2) respectively. [*See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 41]

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the LIC, as the loans disbursed to the Bihar Government in the past are still outstanding.

Low Credit-Deposit Ratio in Banks in Eastern Region

1474. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that credit deposit ratio in banks of eastern region in the country is very much lower than that of all India average;

(b) if so, the detail thereof, and

(c) remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of scheduled commercial banks in the State of Eastern Region as on the last Friday of March 1997 and also all India average, as fur-

nished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below:

State	CD Ratio (in per cent)
1. Bihar	30.5
2. Orissa	49.0
3. Sikkim	17.7
4. West Bengal	50.0
5. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16.0
Eastern Region	43.3
All India	57.3

Reserve Bank of India have reported that the low CDR in Eastern Region is mainly due to lack of ad quate infrastructural facilities, low credit absorption capacity of the Region, absence of large industries, requisite climate for investment and low recovery position of loans.

(c) RBI have further reported that they had appointed Task Forces to suggest ways and means to improve the CDR in Bihar and West Bengal. The Task Forces had made various recommendations. The implementation of the recommendations through the State Level Bankers' Committees is an on-going process.

Inspection of CRB'S Corporate Office by RBI

1475. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI carried out final inspection of CRB's Corporate Office in Mumbai on January 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of irregularities detected in the inspection report; and

(c) what action was taken against the CRB and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) they have conducted an inspection of the Mumbai Office of CRB Capital Markets Ltd. between 18.11.96 and 3.1.97

(b) The inspection which was carried out with reference to its position as on 31.3.96, revealed that the company had violated Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directions in regard to period and interest rates of deposits. The company had paid brokerage beyond the maximum permissible rates, accepted NRI deposits beond the period for which the permission as granted by Exchange Control Department and violated Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations and guidelines while Accepting money under the portfolio Management Scheme (PMS). The inspection also pointed out that the company could not establish the bonafides of bills discounted.

(c) RBI have reported that the Company was prohibited from acceptance of fresh deposits with effect from April 9, 1997. This was done after issuing a Show Cause Notice giving reasonable time for the company to submit its explanation. The explanation submitted by the company was not found to be satisfactory. Based on complaints of defaults in repayments of ICDs as well as irregularities in the 'at par' encashment of interest/dividend warrant arrangements with State Bank of India, RBI had filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court for appointment of Liquidator. The Delhi High Court have appointed the Official Liquidator as Provisional Liquidator to take stock of the assets of the company with a view to realising the assets and settling the claims of creditors in due course in accordance with the provisions of Company Law.

Dhanvarsha Scheme of LIC

1476. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC mutual fund has deferred the launch of its new scheme Dhanvarsha scheduled from 7th July, 1997.

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Mutual Fund